

SCHOOL YEAR ENDS

Graduation ceremonies at each of our three high schools were held recently. It would appear that 2006 was another banner year for our graduating seniors of the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District. While I don't have an exact dollar amount to share with you, I believe that this year's graduates earned in the vicinity of \$1.2 million in grants and scholarships to use in advancing their education. Personally, I think that this is wonderful news, and I tip my hat to the counselors, students, and parents for their efforts in pursuing these dollars.

As I mentioned in my brief remarks at all three graduation ceremonies, graduation is an ending. It's the end of your childhood and formative years. But, graduation is more importantly a beginning. It's the beginning of your adult life. Just as the young bird leaves the nest to make its own life, so it is that our 2006 graduates should go out into the world, chart their own course, and make our world a better place for all as a result of their efforts. Good luck graduates!

UPDATE ON NEW SCHOOLS

Treasurer Eric Toole and I have been communicating back and forth with the Ohio School Facilities Commission, bond counsel, construction counsel, and our architect in an attempt to begin the Program of Requirements (POR) portion of the project. The hold-up in this process, if you want to call it that, is that our school district is actually a little bit ahead of the game. You good people have approved the bond issue for the local portion of the project in advance of the funds being released for our project by the OSFC. Who

says that Adams County isn't progressive? As we all know, time is money and construction costs are ever-increasing. We do believe that we will be able to get started on our project very shortly.

I made a new friend recently, a young, hard-working taxpayer and parent of elementary age students. We were discussing all of the positives that this new building project could mean for both the school district and the county as a whole. I assured this parent, just as I have shared with you previously, that new buildings will provide a tremendous boost to the learning environment for our students and staff. However, for me or anyone else to suggest that new buildings, in and of themselves, will single-handedly improve classroom and state testing results, is simply not true. That task is left for we, the educators, working jointly with students and parents to accomplish. And, we will do so by incorporating best practices in to our delivery of services, and by using our student data to help guide instruction.

SNEAK PEEK

Speaking of data, we have a sneak peek at our preliminary data that will appear on our 2006 Local Report Card in August. This data will go through a sifting and sorting process between now and the end of June before it becomes our LRC. Results at all levels are encouraging at this time. Our elementary scores have improved overall, and the number of indicators met have also improved. We appear to have done a better job in meeting Adequate Yearly Progress, but may have still fallen short in Fifth Grade Reading. Again, this is preliminary information. We also show improvements at the 7-8

grade levels, but may not have met AYP in 8th grade reading. As far as the early Ohio Graduation Test results are concerned, it looks as though we have earned 4 out of 5 indicators at the 10th grade level, but it is too early for me to speculate on the number of indicators met at the 11th grade level. On the surface, it appears that most buildings did a tremendous job in our first real year of using Alternate Assessments with our most serious cases of students with disabilities (SWD). Likewise, the SWD subgroup performed well at some grade levels in some buildings. We already know that we must use this piece of data in planning for the 2006-2007 school year.

In closing out this week's article, I want to share with you how proud I am of the efforts of many of our teachers and administrators. So many are not only working hard, they are working smart. They are actively involved with several district projects incorporating best practices. So, naturally, they are on board, up to speed, and know what needs to be done and how to do it right from the get go. Of course, to be truly successful across the district, we need everyone working hard and smart. This will be a continuing goal in 2006-2007.

As mentioned earlier, LRCs will be released by the Ohio Department of Education in August. At that time, I will have the information to prepare a complete report for you. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact your building principal.

URGENT NOTICE!

Kindergarten Screening is coming up at each of our three elementary buildings on June 19th, 20th, and 21st. If you haven't already enrolled your child for kindergarten for the 2006-2007 school year, please stop by the elementary school office in your attendance area before June 19th. It is extremely important that we screen our incoming kindergarten students on these three days. Your child must be five years old on or before September 30th to be eligible to attend kindergarten. If you have any other questions, please contact your elementary principal.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent